Vol. 5 No. 6 December

Dynamite®

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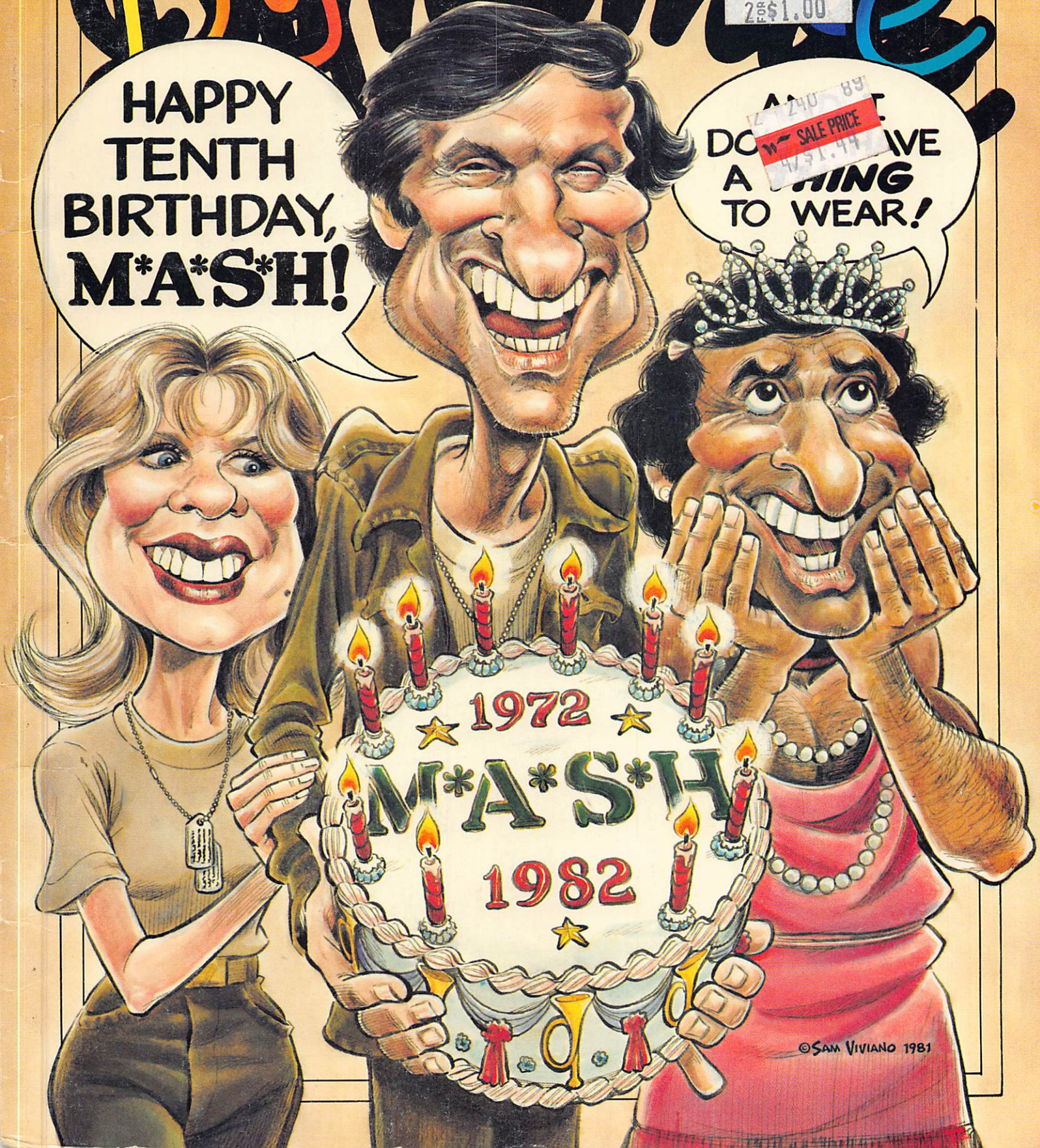

Psssssst...Pass It On...

Send your news, notes, and nuttiness to: DYNAMITE, 50 W. 44th Street, New York, NY 10036

Dear Count Morbida,

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that we have formed your first fan club. Now we need a poster of you. Check with the *Dynamite* staff and see if you can send us one.

Jim Wood, Easton, PA

Dear Jim,

Fang-tastic! It's about time you sniveling snips realized how important I really am! Just don't expect me, Count Morbida, Master of Meanness, to attend the club meetings! Bah! As for a poster, that's another fang-tastic idea! Until it happens, though, you'll just have to settle for seeing me in your nightmares *and* every month in *Dynamite*!

COUNT MORBIDA

Dear *Dynamite*,

Please pass this information on to Disappointed, who is afraid of having to give up *Dynamite*. I'm 18 and a freshman at college and I still get *Dynamite*! The articles are timeless and good for all ages. I look forward to *Dynamite* every month and wouldn't miss it for the world! Thanks for a good magazine.

Sandy Stirweis, Kalamazoo, MI

Dear Sandy,

We're always happy to hear from our fans, young and old. No one ever has to give up reading *Dynamite*. We plan to go on forever, or at least as long as we have loyal fans like you who want to read what we write! Thanks a lot!

Dynamite

Dear *Dynamite*,

How long does it take to put together one issue of *Dynamite*? Also, tell Count Morbida I said hi.

Elana Horwitz, Manalapan, NJ

Dear Elana,

It usually takes about four weeks to put the entire magazine together. That includes coming up with the ideas, writing the stories, getting the artists and photographers, getting everything organized and shipping it off to the printer. Whew! Sounds like a lot of work — it is, but it's also a lot of fun! By the way, we tried to send your regards to the Count, but after learning about his fan club he shut his coffin lid tight and refuses to come out!

Dynamite

Dear *Dynamite*,

I think your magazine is great. I told my friends about it and they started getting *Dynamite*, too! Now they really like it. Here's a Knock Knock joke for you.

Knock knock. Who's there?
Vera. Vera who?
Vera cold for June, isn't it?

Kimberly King, Stillwater, OK

Dear Kimberly,

Here's a joke for you.

Brrrng, brrrng. Who's there?
Hurd. Hurd who?
Hurd my hand, so I couldn't knock knock.

Keep those cards and letters coming in, gang! We love hearing from our fans.

Dynamite

Dynamite is created especially for you by: Editor: Linda Aber. Art Direction: Greg Wozney Design. Managing Editor: Chip Lovitt. Associate Editor: Jane Lubin. Editorial Assistant: Pat Brigandi. Production Editor: Bruce Magenheimer. Assistant Manufacturing Manager: Naomi Claudio. Handy Helpers: Margaret Ronan, Megan Stine and H. William Stine. Publisher: Sheldon Sturges. Editorial Director: Jane Stine.

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Handy Guide to What's Inside

10. Dynamite's New New Year's Resolutions:

Laugh out the old year and laugh in the new!

12. Toys! The Big Business of Fun and Games:

Are your toys worth a fortune?

24. The Mystery of the Christmas Roses:

The saddest *Spooky Tale* yet!

6. Happy Tenth Birthday, M*A*S*H: *Dynamite* Talks with Jamie "Klinger" Farr!

15. And Now A Word From Our Sponsor: Another blast at BADvetising.

16. The Dynamite Duo: Dawnstar and Nightglider are out and Laser-Man's in!

18. The Lake Champlain Monster, Fact or Fiction? Nessie, move over, there's a new monster in town!

20. Supermaze II: You'll need super powers to get out of this one!

22. Hot Stuff: Your hot line to the latest fun, snacks, tricks, and facts!

27. Good Vibrations: Straight talk and solid advice.

28. The Look-Alike Winners Are Here!

30. Off the Record: A roundup of high notes and low notes from the rock scene!

32. Count Morbida's Puzzle Pages: The Master of Meanness is flying south for winter!

34. Bummers: Lemons and losers to louse up your day!

35. Sneak Previews: Find out what the future will bring!

36. Dynamite Books at a Dynamite Price! Plus: A punch-out calendar filled with Dynamite days!

Happy Tenth Birthday, M*A*S*H!

Break out the party hats and noisemakers, gang, *Dynamite* is celebrating the best birthday of the year! *M*A*S*H* has been a hit television show for ten terrific years! When *Dynamite* called up the *M*A*S*H* gang to wish them many happy returns, we were lucky enough to talk with one of the maddest *M*A*S*H*ers of all, Jamie "Corporal Max Klinger" Farr! Since he is one of the original stars of the show, he had lots to tell about the show's past, present, and future!

The new M*A*S*H gang, l. to r., Mike Farrell, William Christopher, Harry Morgan, Alan Alda, Loretta Swit, Jamie Farr, and David Ogden Stiers. Radar and Hawkeye as they used to be—together!

Looking Back

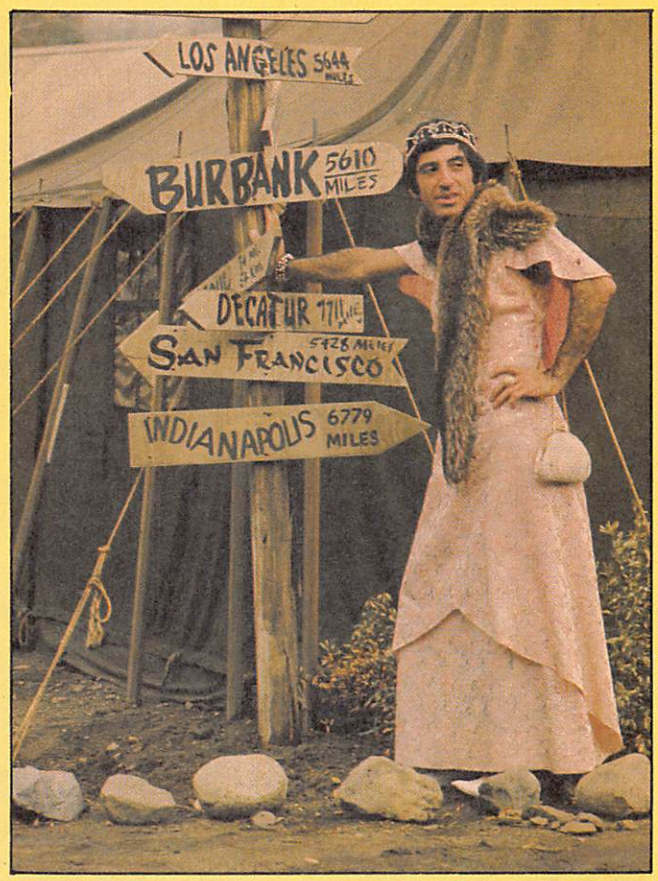
When it began ten years ago, no one knew if the TV show *M*A*S*H* would be as big a hit as *M*A*S*H*, the movie. "I had no idea at all," said Farr, "but I think Alan Alda felt it would. My wife, Joy, and Alan talked during the first few episodes of the second season. They both asked each other whether the show would last ten years, and they both said yes."

For Farr, he was just glad to be working. "I was, very simply, an out-of-work actor who had gotten himself a job. I'd been in the business for many years, and I had worked on so many shows where they said it would be wonderful and terrific. It never was. I knew when I got to *M*A*S*H* that these were nice and talented people. But I just wanted to do the best possible job so the show would stay on the air so I would be called back to work for another season."

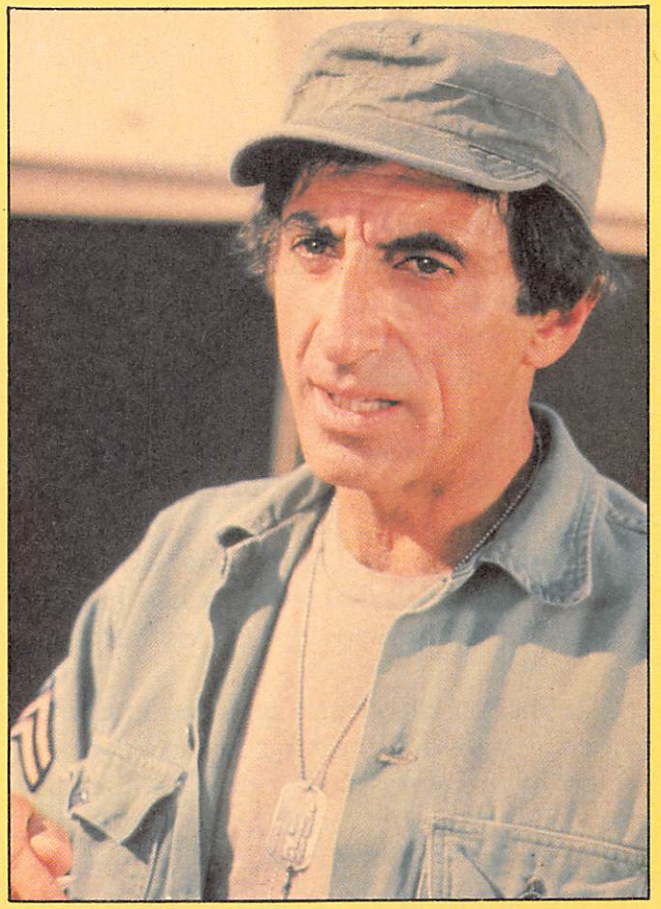
Farr's character, Max Klinger, wasn't in the original movie. It was created for the TV show. Farr told us a little about the character. "To begin with, Klinger was a minor character whose only objective was to get out of the army. His way of doing it was by wearing women's clothing. But he's always been a good soldier." Lately, Klinger's role has gotten bigger. He has taken on the duties of the company clerk and become Colonel Potter's right-hand man.

Farr added that "every actor brings part of his own personality to the role he or she plays." However, he added, "My sense of values are a bit more conservative than Max Klinger's. I would never try any of the things Klinger does. I would be frightened that I would end up in jail!"

Alan Alda, according to Farr, also brings his personality to the role he plays. Although he often shows a very serious side off camera, Farr said, "Alan is a lot of fun. There's a lot of Hawkeye in Alan and vice versa. He laughs it up off camera just as he does when he's playing Hawkeye."



Here's Klinger—all dressed up and no place to go!



Sometimes, even Corporal Klinger gets serious.

The original M*A*S*Hers, l. to r., Loretta Swit, Alan Alda, Wayne Rogers, McLean Stevenson, Larry Linville, and Gary Burghoff.

Old Soldiers Fade Away

Every war has its casualties, even a war of wits. Over the years, many of the show's stars have left the series.

"Each left for a different reason," Farr said. "Wayne Rogers, from what I gathered, left because he felt his character, Trapper John, wasn't getting his share of the show. He wanted to be more involved with the stories and not just be an alter-ego to Hawkeye. McLean Stevenson (Colonel Henry Blake) left because he had a better deal financially with another network."

Stevenson's departure was the first and, for many viewers, the toughest to take because of the way it was handled on the show. Even the actors didn't know the final ending of that episode. "When we shot the show," Farr recalled, "nobody knew what the final page of the script was. The final page was given to us on the last day of the shooting. We thought we were finished with the episode when we said good-bye to Colonel Blake on the helicopter pad. Then we were each given an envelope with the real final page in it. It had been kept a secret. We were all in the operating room when Gary Burghoff, as Radar, delivered the news that Colonel Blake's plane had been shot down over the Sea of Japan. He had been killed."

Stevenson was replaced by Harry Morgan, who plays Colonel Potter. However, other original cast members soon departed.

"Larry Linville left because he was tired of playing Major Frank Burns. He wanted to stretch himself as an actor and do something else. He felt his character wasn't growing," Farr said. Linville was replaced by David Odgen Stiers, who plays the pompous Major Winchester.

"Gary Burghoff left the show because he was tired of playing Radar. He wanted to expand as an actor and not always be the cute guy with glasses and the teddy bear." It was when Gary left that Farr stepped into the role of company clerk, which meant a bigger and better part for him. Still, Burghoff's departure was the hardest to take for Farr.

"Gary's leaving was the toughest for me," Farr explained, "because he had been with the show the longest. He told us he was leaving, but the network didn't believe him. I was and still am good friends with Gary, and I tried to talk him out of leaving because I thought it would hurt the show. We'd lost so many people, my first concern was how we could keep the show going."

Looking Ahead

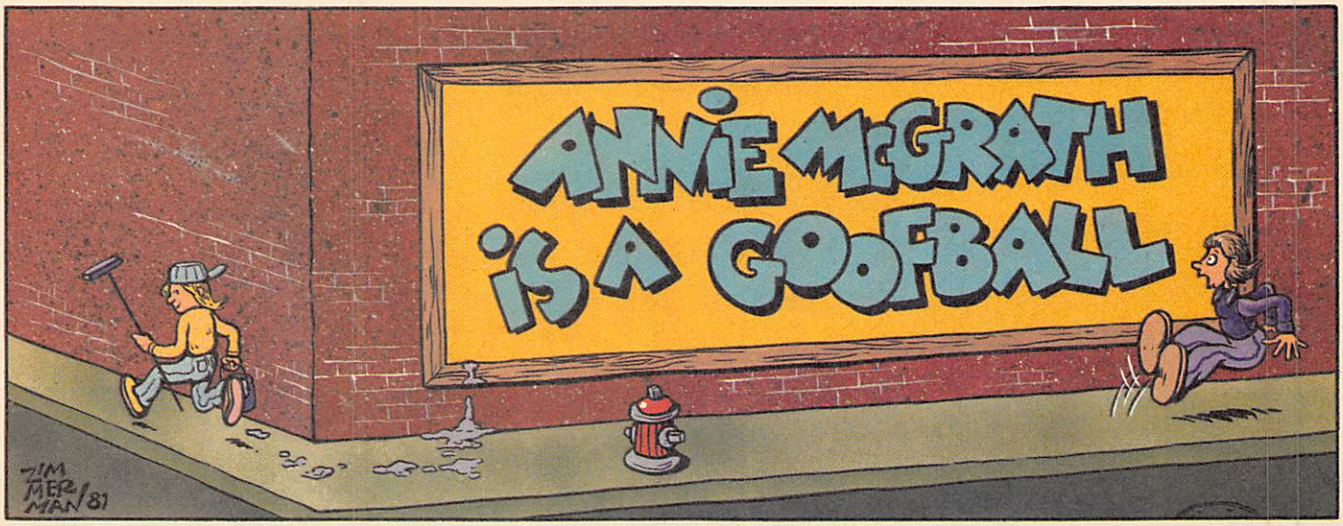
The men and women of *M*A*S*H* have weathered the dangers of war and have mixed its sadness with lots of laughter. But for Farr, the saddest day involving the show hasn't happened yet. "That day is yet to come," he told us. "It's the day when the show finally goes off the air. It may be at the end of this season, so I'm not looking forward to that. We're not quite sure, but we think this will be the last year. All the actors' contracts have expired. Also," Farr continued, "some of the actors want to go on to do other things. If this is the last year of *M*A*S*H*, it's going to be a very difficult experience for all of us."

It will also be a sad day for *M*A*S*H* fans. But while the doctors and nurses may finally come home from the war, they'll live on in the hearts of their fans and in the years and years of reruns!

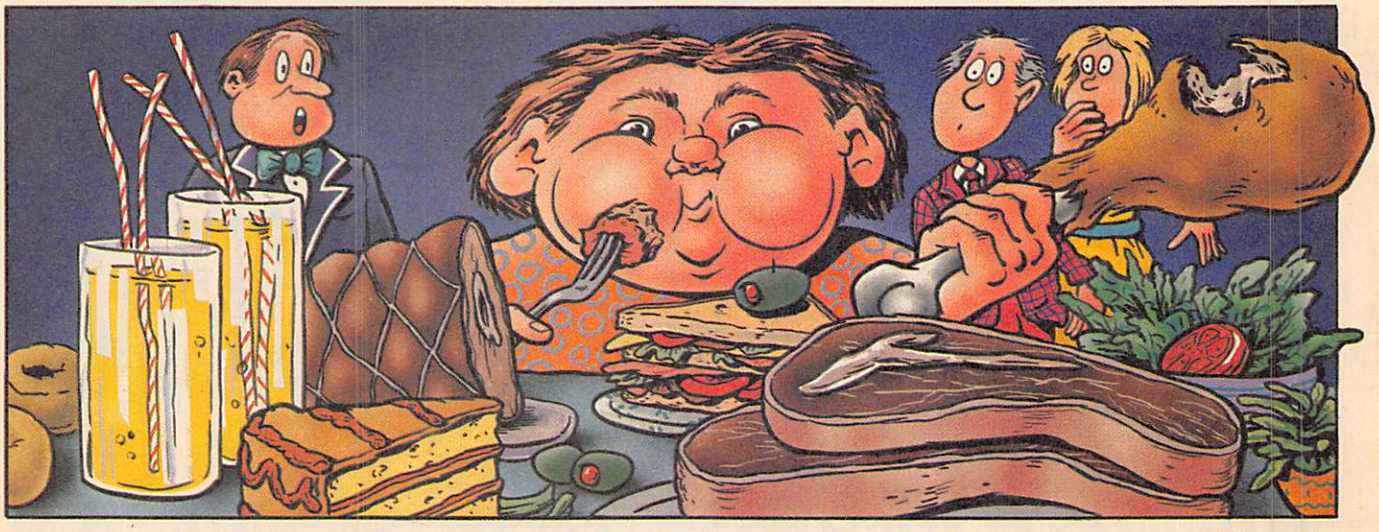
—Chip Lovitt

Dynamite's New New Year's Resolutions

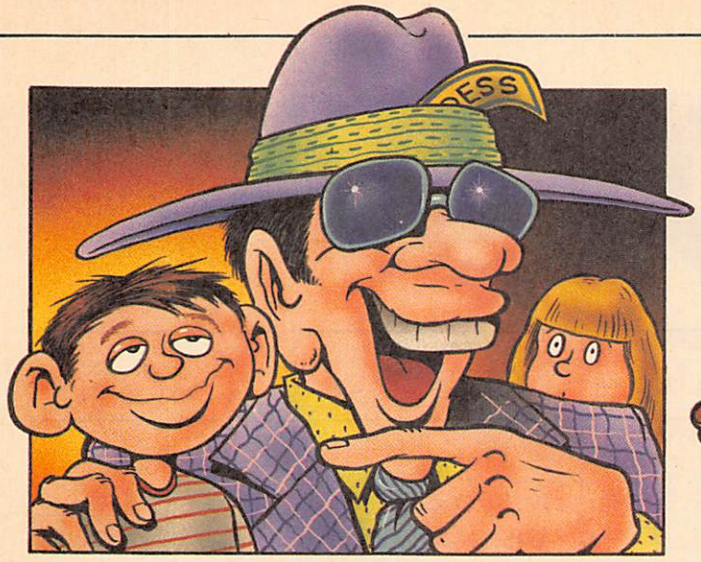
Hey, gang, remember last year's New Year's resolutions? You know . . . remember the one about . . . er . . . ah . . . well, then there was the other one that went . . . ah . . . er . . . er . . . well, anyway, so maybe you don't remember the resolutions you made for last year. But, it's a new New Year now and here's a brand-new list of *Dynamite* resolutions that are yours to keep—or to break! Happy New Year!



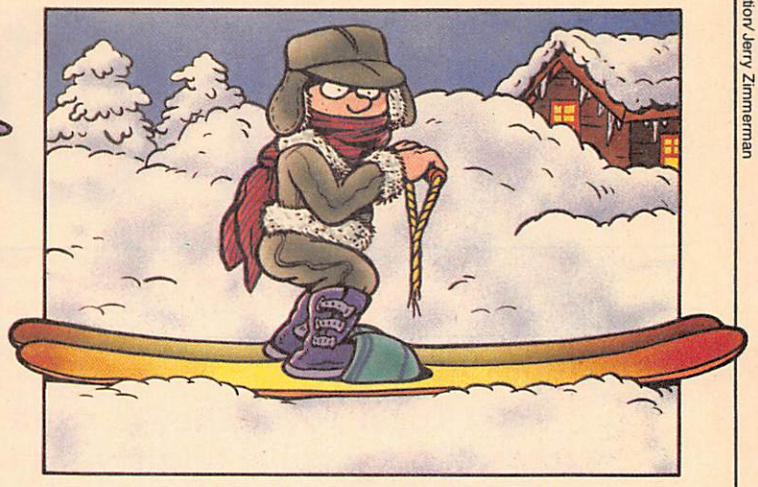
This year, I won't say anything nasty about people I don't like—I'll put up nasty billboards all over town for a change!



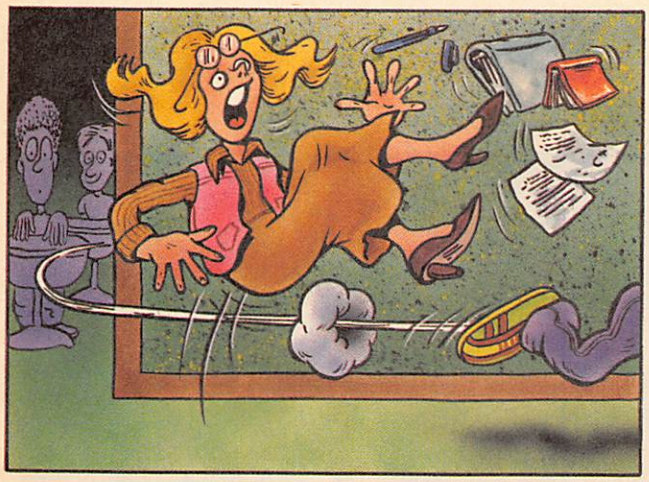
This year, I won't order the single most expensive thing on the menu when I go out to dinner with my parents—I'll order two of everything else instead!



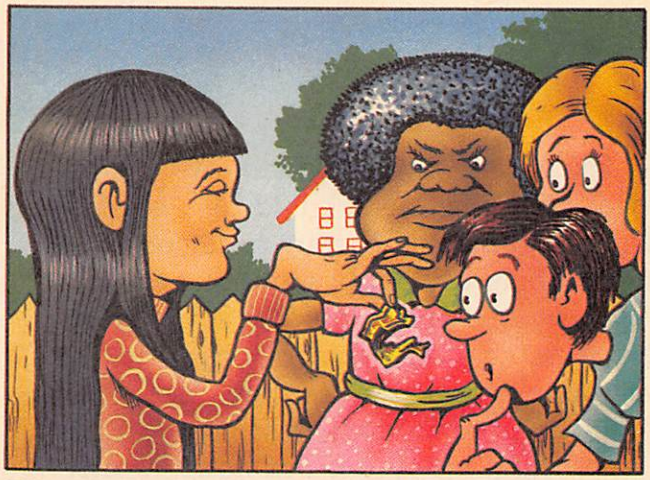
This year, I won't brag about myself—I'll hire a press agent to do it for me!



This year, I will let my little brother use my most prized possession all winter long—my water skis!



This year, I'll take a more active role in after-school activities—I'll jog during detention!



This year, I will always share part of my candy bar with my friends—the part that I usually throw away, the wrapper!

This year, if I sneak a taste of the cake Mom baked for company, I won't leave my fingerprints in the icing—I'll be smart enough to wear gloves when I do it!

This year, I won't make a pig of myself at the table—I'll do it in the backyard with the rest of the animals!

Illustration/ Jerry Zimmerman

TOYS!

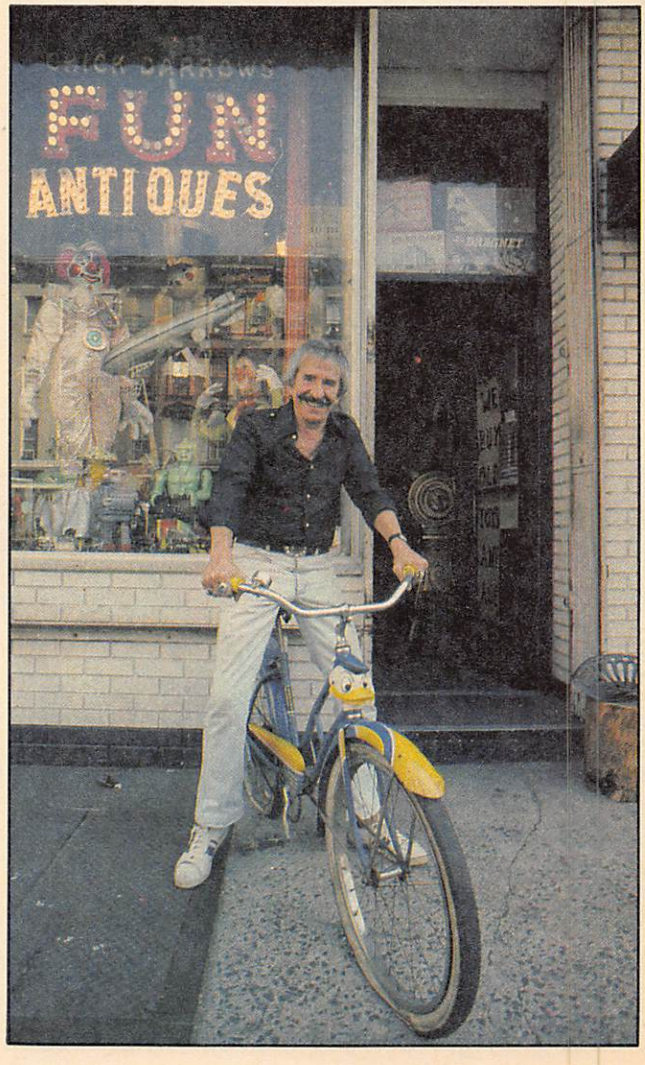
THE BIG BUSINESS OF FUN AND GAMES

Toys! Toys! Toys! They're more than just fun and games! For some people, collecting toys is a serious business as well as a very expensive hobby. One person who is serious about his toys is Chick Darrow, owner of an unusual toy store called "Chick Darrow's Fun Antiques." *Dynamite* paid a visit to Chick's store to see if we could find out which toys bought today could be worth a fortune tomorrow.

"It's hard to predict which toys will be most valuable," Chick told us, "because one of the most important qualities to know about a would-be antique toy is how many were originally made. For instance, original robot toys are very valuable today because they only manufactured thousands of them and there aren't many around now. When they make *Star Wars* toys today, they make millions and billions of them. That's the whole difference in whether or not something will become a valuable collectible."

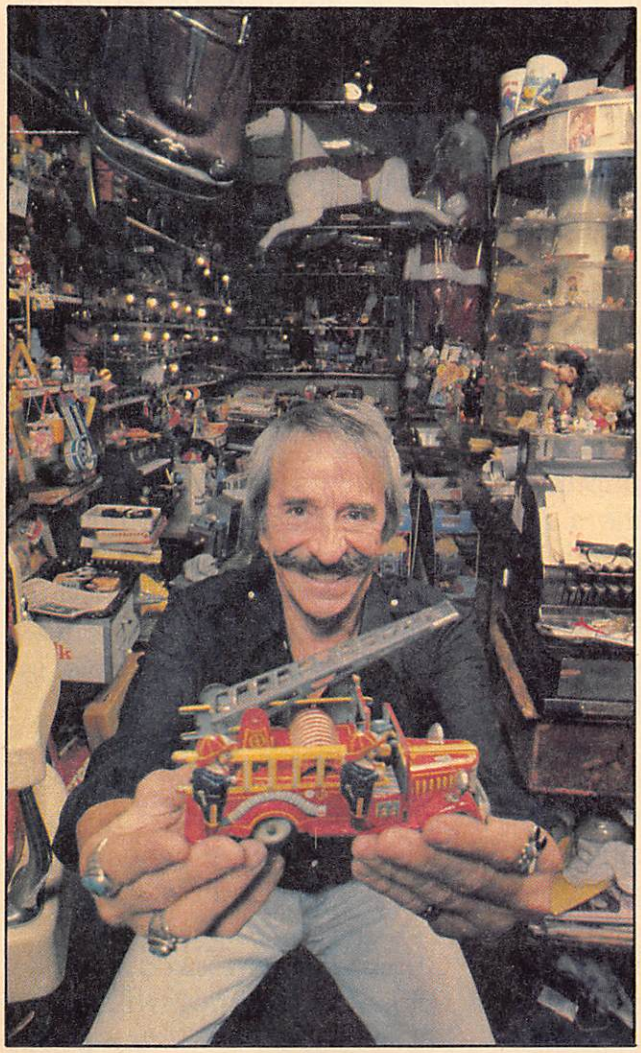
As Chick spoke, our eyes wandered around his incredible store. We felt as if we were in a miniature amusement park! Toy sports cars that you could really ride in hang from the ceiling! The walls are lined with shelves filled with board games, trucks, cap guns, and wind-up toys of every description! Dolls, robots, and toy banks rest on top of glass cases filled with old comic character watches, Elvis Presley souvenirs, and mementos from old TV shows, movies, and cartoons.

Chick was quick to tell us that "Fun Antiques" was the first shop of its kind



when he opened it eighteen years ago. "I was the first person to deal exclusively with antique toys. I started collecting lots of these things before it became popular. My collection grew so much that I finally decided to open up a store. By that time lots of other people were becoming interested in collecting toys and memorabilia such as *Star Trek* items, Beatles souvenirs, and the toys and games about TV, film, and comic characters.

"Here's a fine example of a tin toy fire engine that was made in the 1940s," Chick continued. "Tin toys like this will never be made again because they are too dangerous for children to play with. They were made in Japan out of old tin cans and sold for 39¢. Today, this truck sells for $50.00—and that's if you can find one to buy! Also, I have the original box it came in and that makes it worth twice as much! I predict that ten years from now this toy will be worth a fortune."



We noticed a Barbie doll on the shelf and asked if Barbie dolls are really as valuable as we'd heard. Chick agreed that all Barbie dolls and their friends and relatives are collectible. "But," he reminded us, "if this Barbie doll were in the original box, wearing her original clothes, she would be worth much more. That goes for Matchbox cars as well." We were surprised to hear that Matchbox cars are collectibles and wondered if there are particular ones to look out for. "The best cars will be models that aren't very popular now, because then they may be taken off the market and there won't be very many around," Chick explained. "That's what happened to one of Barbie's relatives called Skipper. Many people thought the doll was so ugly that it was manufactured for only one year and now it's a valuable collectible!" Chick added, "This is the reason why the most valuable mechanical banks today are the ones that were not very popular during the time they were sold."

One of the most valuable toys Chick ever owned was a bank on a pedestal called Jonah and the Whale. "I bought it when I first began collecting toy banks. I paid $250 for it, which was a lot of money at the time, but I didn't realize how valuable that bank was. Some time later I was invited to be in an antique toy show. They wanted me to show my collection of 385 toy banks. On the opening night of the show the first bank I sold was Jonah and the Whale for $3,400. Last year that bank was sold for $30,000!"

"Does that experience sometimes make you think that you'd rather not sell a toy that may become more valuable?" we asked.

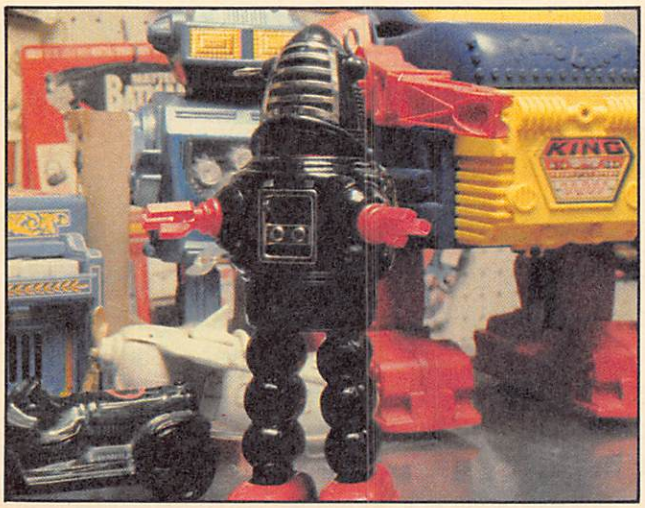
"Absolutely not," replied Chick. "When I

went into this business I decided to give up being a collector. The two really don't mix since it wouldn't be fair to my customers."

We then asked Chick what toys and memorabilia he would recommend for someone who was interested in starting a toy collection.

"Comic character toys are very popular for collectors today — Joe Palooka, Popeye, and all the Disney characters are worth a lot. But the more *unknown* the character is, the less were probably made, and that's better," said Chick. He continued, "GI Joe as an astronaut is a good collectors' item and all space toys are good investments." He pointed to a toy called Robbie the Robot, which came out in the late 1960s and would cost as much as $60 or $70 today! "The first Robbie that was made," Chick explained, "was all tin, not tin and plastic, and was also three or four times larger than this one. Now it is worth between $1,000 to $1,500!"

Opening up a special glass case that just contained watches, Chick told us, "Watches with comic characters such as old Mickey Mouse watches, or the Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf, are the latest hot watches. They originally sold for six or seven dollars and now sell for hundreds!" We were amazed, especially



Photos/Richard Hutchings

when he showed us that all the watches still worked!

"Games that are worth something," said Chick, "usually have to be related to TV, like a *Six Million Dollar Man* board game and *Star Trek* games from the 1960s." That made us wonder what we had done with our old *Battlestar Gallactica* game! We realized that since TV programs come and go very often they're probably a good bet for collecting. Chick agreed.

It was almost time to go when we noticed a large selection of old metal lunch boxes against one wall. Chick was happy to tell us that "yes, lunch boxes made of metal are another very collectible item. Again, especially the ones with popular TV and movie characters on them. Chick said that most of the lunch boxes he had he sold to fashion models who used them for carrying their makeup!

Before we left we asked again, "Could you predict what would be valuable in the future?"

"No," he replied, "there's no way of telling, and if I could, I'd run out and buy it all now! Someone might say Smurfs, since the Troll dolls that were once popular are very collectible now. Smurfs aren't worth a fortune now, but who knows . . . " Chick Darrow looked up, smiled, and said, "Maybe they will be one day!"

— Jane Lubin

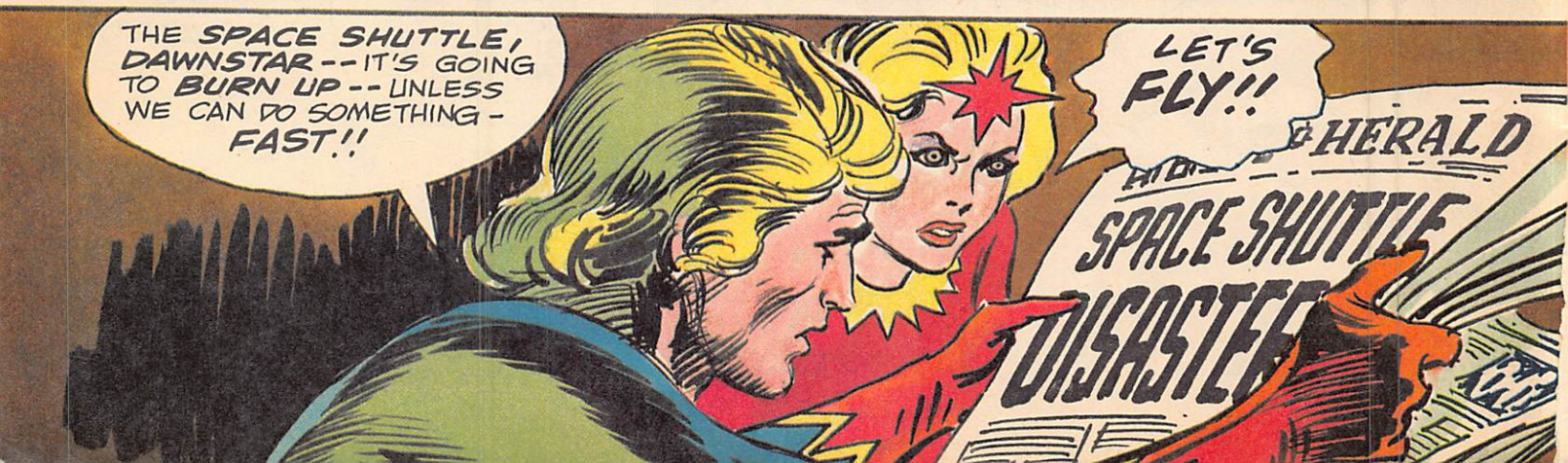
And Now A Word From Our Sponsor

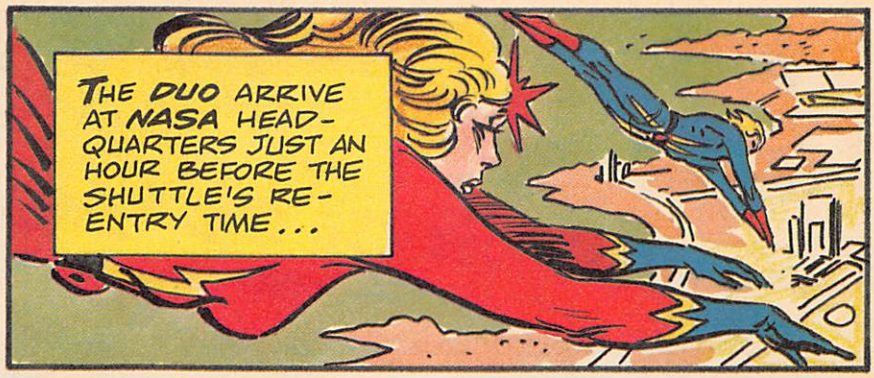
THE DYNAMITE DUO #54

ILLUSTRATED BY: THE JOE KUBERT SCHOOL OF CARTOON ART, INC.
WRITTEN BY: JANE STINE

LAST MONTH, THE PRESIDENT OF THE USA RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE DYNAMITE DUO SAYING THAT THEY WOULDN'T RESCUE THE CRIPPLED SPACE SHUTTLE UNLESS EVERY PERSON IN THE COUNTRY PAID THEM A "PROTECTION" TAX. OF COURSE, THE LETTER WASN'T WRITTEN BY THE DUO BUT BY LASER-MAN, THE JEALOUS SUPER-HERO, WHO KIDNAPPED AND DRUGGED THE DUO -- AND WHO STILL HOLDS THEM CAPTIVE.

LOOK PEACEFUL, DON'T THEY? WELL... NOT FOR LONG! DAWNSTAR IS STIRRING...





UH, OH! IT LOOKS AS IF THE DUO IS IN DISGRACE, BUT, WILL LASER-MAN REALLY BE ABLE TO SAVE THE SPACE SHUTTLE? YOU'LL FIND OUT -- NEXT MONTH!

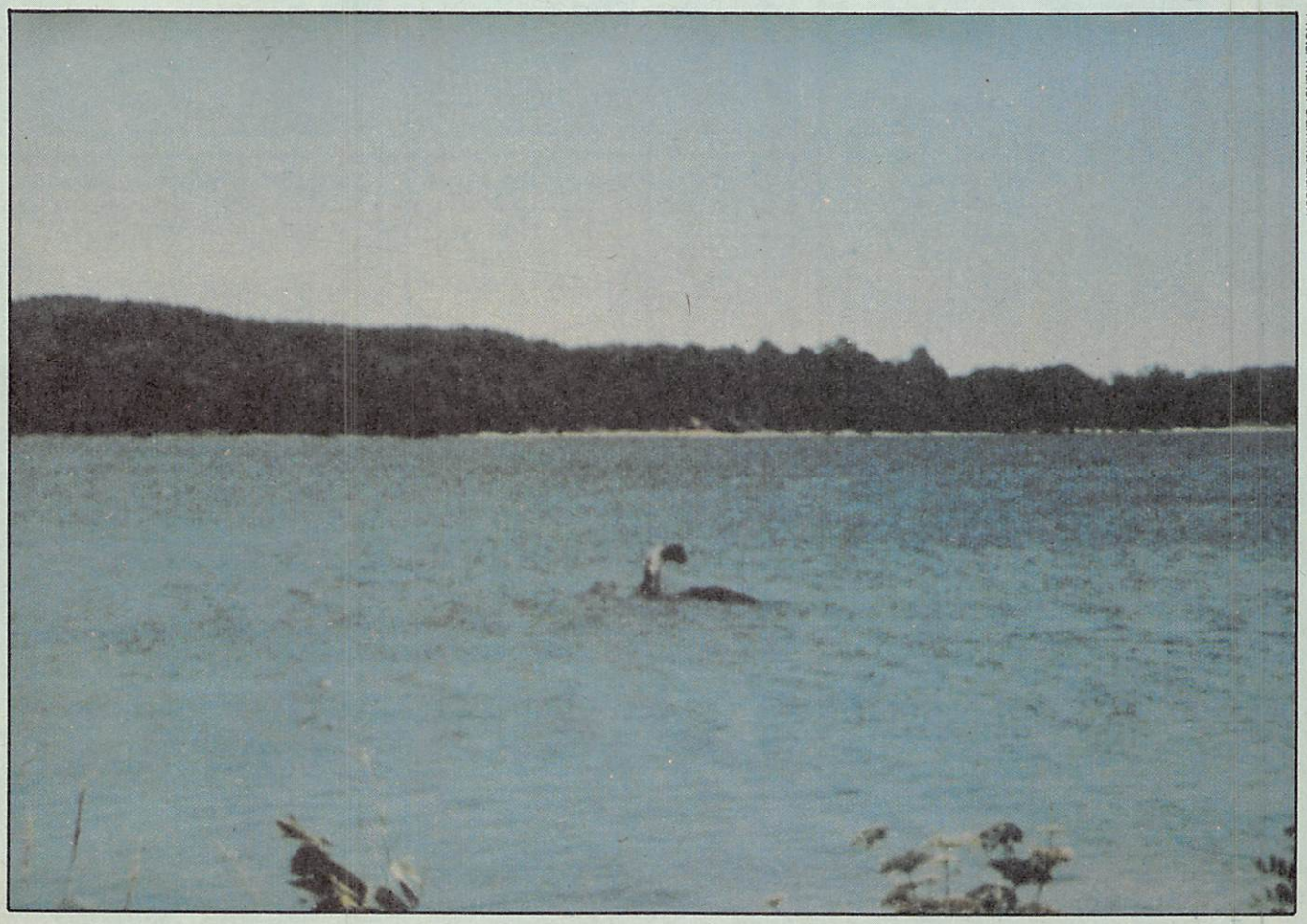
THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN MONSTER

Fact or Fiction?

Lake Champlain in upstate New York has a lot in common with Loch Ness in Scotland. Both lakes are long and narrow and are hundreds of feet deep in places. Both are surrounded by scenic mountains and each attracts thousands of visitors every year. The two lakes may also have something else in common—monsters. Nessie, the so-called Loch Ness Monster, is world famous. But until recently, reports of a monster in Lake Champlain were thought to be little more than big fish stories. Now, a startling new photograph has appeared, and it could prove whether this creature is fact or fantasy. Is there a Lake Champlain Monster? You be the judge!

A 2,000-pound Duck?

Reports of a sea serpent-like creature in Lake Champlain date back more than 300 years and are mentioned in old Indian legends. Residents on both the New York and Vermont sides of the lake have also claimed to have seen the creature. In July of 1977 Sandra Mansi and her family



Photo/Mansi-Gamma-Liaison

were visiting a remote area of Lake Champlain near St. Albans, Vermont, and they too claimed to have seen something strange.

As Mrs. Mansi told *Dynamite*, "It was a bright sunny day. I saw this object on the lake about 100 to 150 feet away. At first I thought it was a large school of fish or a scuba diver, because the water was churning. Then I saw the head and neck break the surface of the water. Even then I thought it might be a large sturgeon [a fish that can grow many feet long]. Then I saw the rest of the neck come up, and it was 6 to 8 feet long! Its back came out of the water and it began to look around. The head and neck moved, but it never swam. I was getting really scared."

Some people might have thought Mrs. Mansi's imagination was running wild if she had not snapped a picture of the creature with an Instamatic camera. Even Mrs. Mansi refused to believe her eyes. "I was brought up in Vermont," Mrs. Mansi told *Dynamite*, "and I had heard the legend as a little girl. I didn't believe it then and thought it went along with things such as the tooth fairy."

Mrs. Mansi said the sighting had gone on for four minutes when the creature "looked around and put its head back under the water. Then we heard the boat coming around the cove. The creature had obviously heard the boat long before we did."

Mrs. Mansi and her husband were so shook up by the incident that they refused to talk about it until they saw the picture. "We thought there had to be an explanation for it," Mrs. Mansi recalled. "We decided to call it a 2,000-pound duck. That was easier to deal with."

Seeing Is Believing!

Mrs. Mansi was afraid to show the picture to anyone for two years because she thought people would think she was crazy or a faker. It wasn't until a friend at work told her he had read about the Lake Champlain Monster in a national magazine that Mrs. Mansi's photo ended up in the hands of photographic experts. They tested it to see if it was a fake or trick photography. They determined it was a real, untampered-with photo of something they could not identify!

Joe Zarzynski is a Saratoga, NY, teacher who has kept records of sightings of this creature known as Champ. "What we are dealing with," Joe told *Dynamite*, "is approximately 140 reported sightings. The first was in July of 1609 when the explorer, Samuel de Champlain, had a sighting. The second was in 1819 in the Port Henry area and it was covered by a Plattsburg, NY, newspaper." Later, P.T. Barnum, the showman, heard about the animal and offered $50,000 for its hide.

Joe admitted some sightings could have been "someone mistaking an unusual wave pattern, a log in the water, or a flock of birds for a monster." About explanations that it's a large fish, Joe said, "It's not unusual to hear of fishermen pulling out 6-, 7-, or 8-foot sturgeons. But I believe there's more to it than people misidentifying sturgeons. Nothing comes close to what people have seen."

Joe believes that Champ does exist and is a descendant of extinct animals. "One theory is that it's a remnant of the plesiosaur family, a reptile that became extinct 60 million years ago. The newest theory put forth by Dr. Roy Mackal of the University of Chicago is that we are dealing with a zeuglodon, a serpentine, snakelike whale that became extinct 20 million years ago. I think there's a small breeding community of these creatures in Lake Champlain that may or may not be similar to what we hear about in Loch Ness."

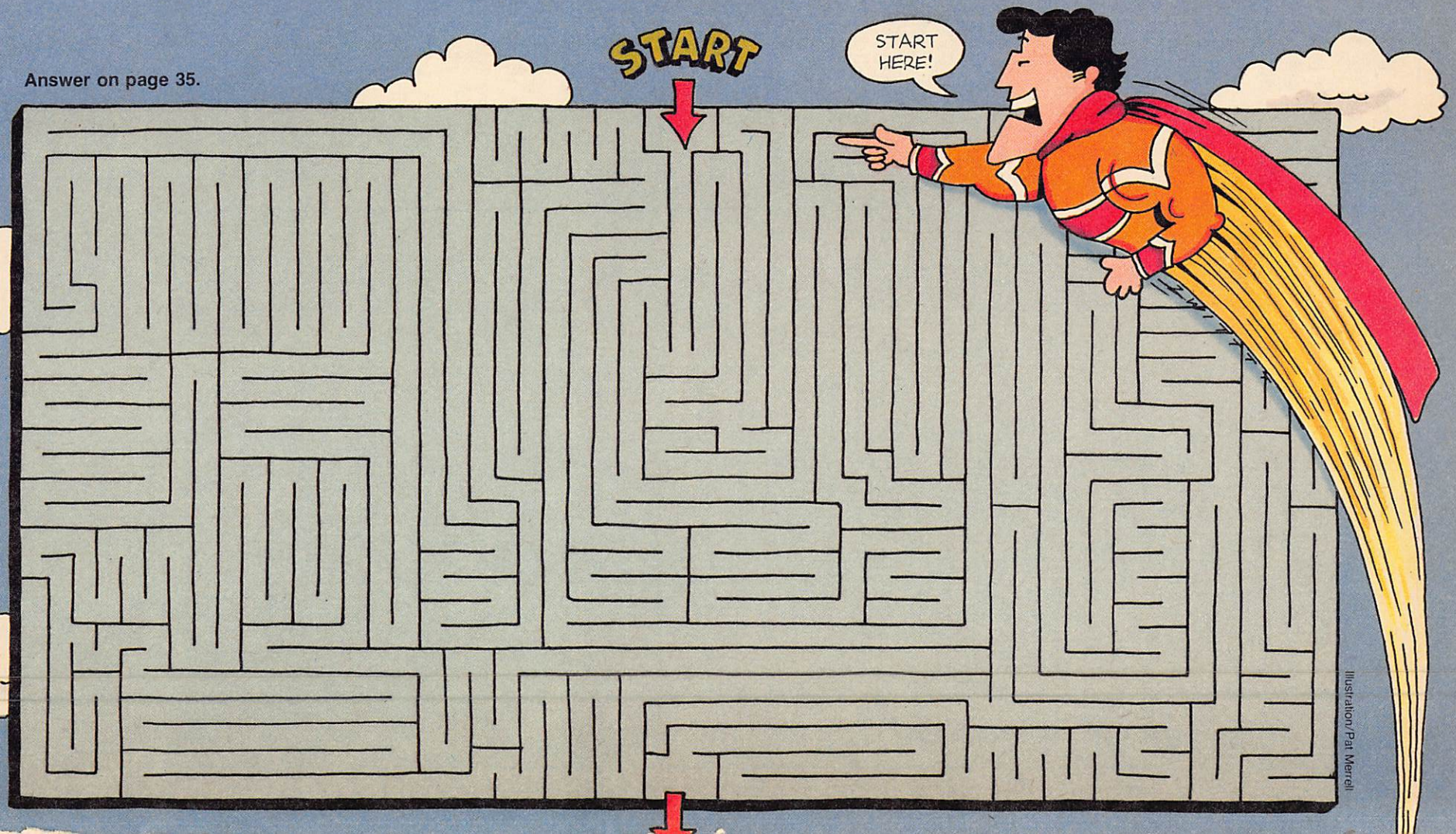
Many people in the Lake Champlain region would agree with Joe. If the creature is real, then Sandra Mansi was right when she said, "We've got to protect this creature and not harass or harm it." For Mrs. Mansi and others, seeing has been believing. What about you?

—Chip Lovitt

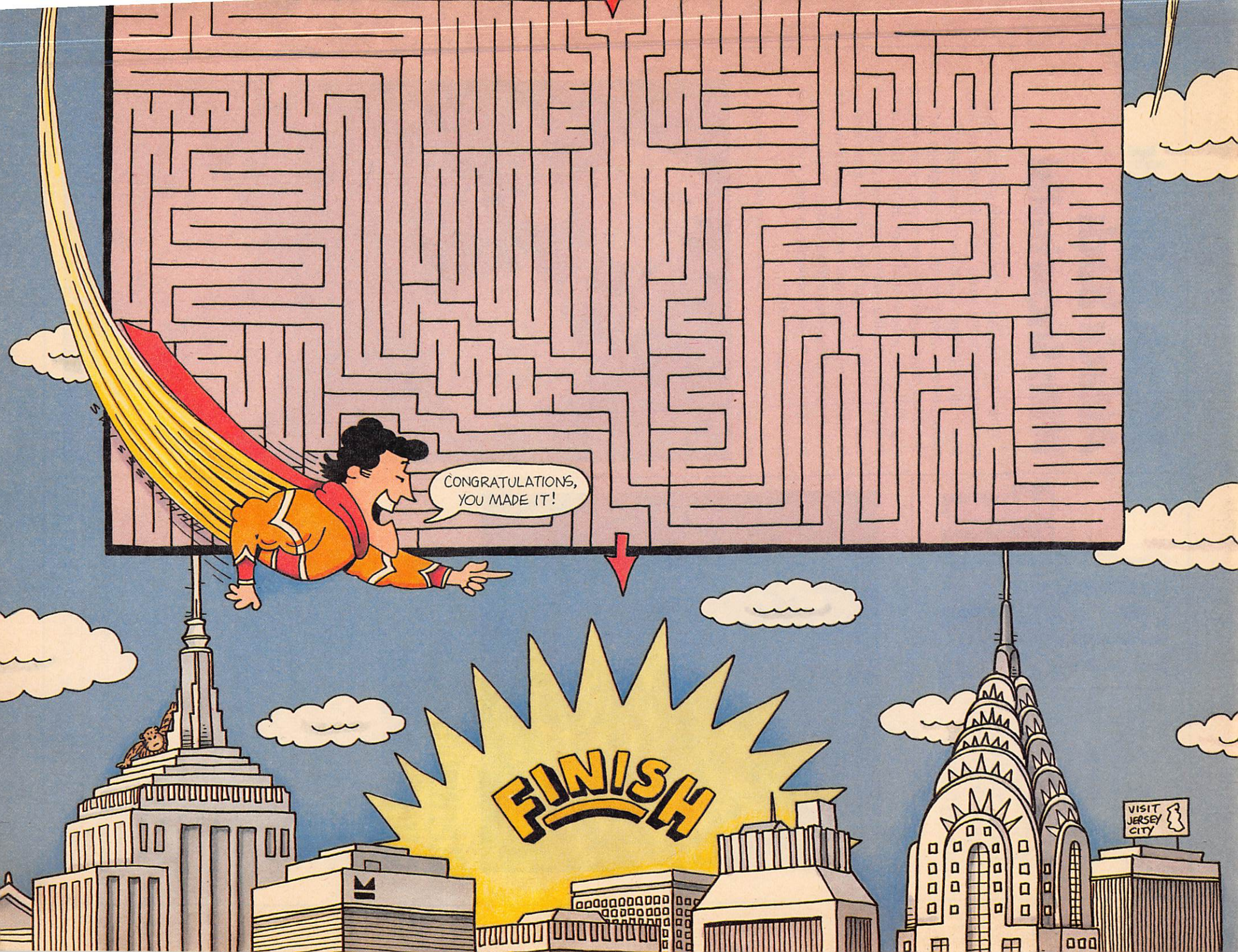
SUPERMAZE II

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! Well, it could be a lot of things up in the sky, but right now it's what's up on these two pages that matters! This super amazing Supermaze II is actually two mazes in one! In fact, you may need super powers to get through this doubly troubling maze within a maze! Start at START and fly to the FINISH!

Answer on page 35.



Illustration/Pat Merrell


CONGRATULATIONS, YOU MADE IT!
FINISH
VISIT JERSEY CITY

Your Hot Line to the latest fads, fashions, games, Gotchas, giggles, snacks, treats, and other happenings that are Dynamite!

HOT STUFF

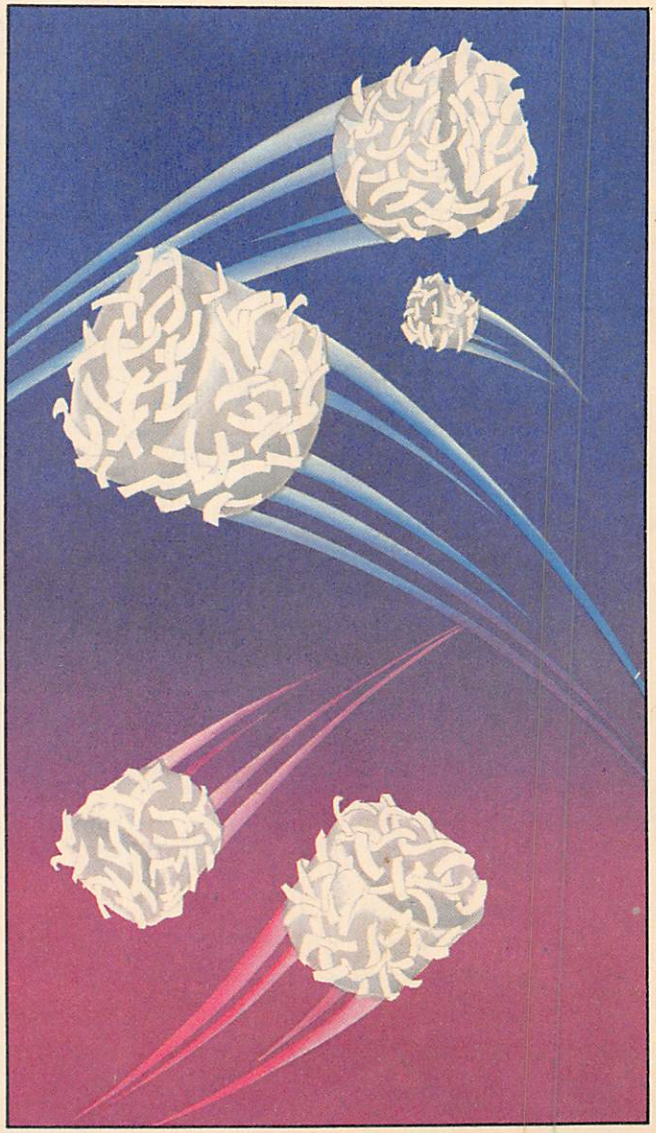
Starwand— A Brighter Idea!

The flashiest fad we've seen yet is the new flashlight called Starwand! It's a regular flashlight with a bright and colorful difference! Long plastic strands called optical fibers are attached to the light end of the flashlight. When you turn on the switch, a rainbow of colors sparkles at the end of each fiber. To get a really Dynamite effect all you have to do is wave your Starwand, shake it, spin it, or just jiggle it a little bit. The Starwand comes in two different styles: All American, which lights up red, white, and blue; or Hot Fire, which lights up orange and yellow. The cost is about $5.00 each, and they'll be available at novelty and gift shops. A Starwand could be just the bright idea you've been looking for as a gift to give or to receive!
(Remember: You can't order this from *Dynamite*!)

Attack A Snack Attack Back With Snowballs!

When it's snowing on the outside you can enjoy the snowballs on the inside with this quick and easy snack attack tackler! You'll need 1 package of marshmallows, 2 egg whites, and a package of shredded coconut to make this tropical treat. Put the egg whites in a bowl and beat lightly. Dip each marshmallow into the beaten egg white and then roll each one in the coconut. When the marshmallows are completely covered with coconut, place them on a dish and refrigerate until hardened. There's only one place for these snowballs to melt and that, of course, is in your mouth!

Thanks and a Hot Stuff T-shirt goes to Janice Wampler of Augusta, KS, for this cool idea!



Illustration/Josie Yee

Play It by the Numbers!

Want to amaze your friends and family with your incredible wealth of wisdom? Of course you do, but don't start memorizing the encyclopedia! Just learn this number trick, and you'll astound everyone when you tell them exactly on what day of the week they were born! Or, really impress them by mysteriously revealing the day of the week on which any event has happened or will happen in the future, from the 18th century to the 21st century! We'll pick a date in the future to show you how it works: July 4, 1985

Step 1. Write down the last two digits of the year 1985. (85)

Step 2. Divide this two-digit number by 4. The answer is 21 with a remainder of 1. Ignore any remainder. (If the answer doesn't have a remainder, it was a leap year and you must add the number 1 to your answer.) Write down your answer.

Step 3. Write down the date in the month, which is 4.

Step 4. Look at the chart below and write down the number that stands for the correct month.

Jan. 1	April 0	July 0	Oct. 1
Feb. 4	May 2	Aug. 3	Nov. 4
Mar. 4	June 5	Sept. 6	Dec. 6

Step 5. Look at the chart below and write down the number that stands for the correct century.

18th century	4	20th century	0
19th century	2	21st century	6

1985 is in the 20th century so the number you will add is 0.

Step 6. Add all the answers you wrote down in steps 1–5.

Step 1	85
Step 2	21
Step 3	4
Step 4	0
Step 5	0
	110

Step 7. Divide that total by 7. The remainder gives you the day of the week as follows:

Sunday	1	Thursday	5
Monday	2	Friday	6
Tuesday	3	Saturday	0 (no remainder)
Wednesday	4		

July 4, 1985 will be a Thursday!

Birthday Box

Start the New Year off with a celebration and wish this great group of Hollywood stars a Happy New Year and a Happy Birthday!

January 19. Dolly Parton's birthday. You can say "hello, Dolly" and send this country girl a birthday note % RCA Records, 1133 Avenue of the Americas, N.Y., N.Y. 10036

January 20. Paul Stanley's birthday. Send a birthday kiss and your best wishes to the KISS Superstar % Aucoin Management, 645 Madison Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. 10022

January 23. Gil Gerard's Birthday. You can wish Buck Rogers, the star of the 25th century, a stellar birthday % NBC-TV, 3000 West Alameda, Burbank, CA 91505

January 28. Alan Alda's birthday. TV's craziest cut-up will really be in stitches when he receives your birthday card! Send it % CBS-TV, 7800 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036.

SPOOKY TALES

It's nighttime. It's dark. There's no one around to hold your hand. Do you dare read *Dynamite*'s thrilling, chilling tale? Go ahead. Take a chance. Everyone knows there's no such thing as a ghost—or is there? You decide after you read . . .

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHRISTMAS ROSES

Marcy and Steve were bringing home the Christmas tree when they first saw the boy. He was trudging through the deep snow about 30 yards behind them. In one hand he carried a package wrapped in florist's paper.

Although the tree was small, it was heavy. Every now and then Marcy and Steve had to stop to catch their breath. Each time they looked back they could see the boy, struggling through the drifts.

"He's following us," said Marcy.

Steve sighed. He was fourteen, just two years older than Marcy. But most of the time he felt a real generation gap. Marcy had too much imagination.

"Just because he's going the same way that we are doesn't mean he's following us. He's probably trying to deliver some flowers." Steve's voice became teasing. "Maybe the flowers are for you, Marcy. Maybe that kid is your secret admirer."

"Well, he's not!" Marcy said indignantly. "Besides, who would be getting flowers out here? Ours is the only house for three miles."

Steve looked back. The kid did look bewildered. He also looked cold. Steve could see that his jacket was thin, and that instead of boots, he wore heavy socks pulled up over his pants to the knee.

"Hey, are you lost? Do you need some help?" Steve called. The boy shook his head. Steve shrugged and motioned to Marcy to start pulling her side of the sled on which the tree was tied. When he glanced back again, the boy was just standing there, looking after them. Some red roses were poking out of the paper-wrapped bouquet he carried.

"He'll freeze if he just stands there," Marcy muttered.

"It's not your problem," Steve told her. "Let's get this tree home before it's too late for Christmas."

But the next morning, Marcy began to feel that it was partly her problem. When she looked out the kitchen window, the boy was standing by the backyard gate. The bouquet was still under his arm, but the roses that stuck out were black with cold.

She put on her heavy coat and boots and went out to the gate. "Hi," she said. "Are you looking for somebody?"

She heard the kitchen door open and shut again. Behind her, Steve came up the path.

"Hey, kid, my mother's making hot cocoa," he called out. "Why don't you come in and have some. Then you can help us put up the Christmas tree."

The boy looked at them with dim blue eyes. Through cold blue lips he whispered, "Is it Christmas yet?"

"No, that's tomorrow."

"I'll come tomorrow," the boy said, and turned to walk away. Marcy felt a lump rise in her throat. The thin figure seemed very small in the stretch of snow.

"He looks half-frozen," she said. "Why didn't he come in and get warm?"

"Who knows? If you ask me, that kid isn't playing with a full deck. I better go and tell mom he's coming back tomorrow."

"I'm going to stay here," Marcy said. "I'm going to build a snowman." Her voice had a strange, dreamy quality that made Steve look at her sharply. He decided Marcy was having one of her weird "spells."

In a way, she was. Instead of building a snowman, she found herself putting together a snow woman. The figure was slumped over, with its head buried in its arms.

"Well, it's good, dear," said her mother, "but it's not very cheerful. The poor thing looks heartbroken. What made you do it that way?"

Marcy shook her head. She didn't know. She didn't want to say that the

figure just seemed to grow under her hands because Steve would laugh.

Although the household was up early the next morning, the boy didn't appear. But the roses he had carried were lying dead and black at the foot of the snow woman.

When Marcy brought the flowers inside the house, her mother looked troubled. "It reminds me of a story I heard when we first moved to this house. It seems that there was a woman who lived here with her son. He ran away, and she spent years and most of her money trying to find him. Then she got sick and died on Christmas Day. There was a bad blizzard that day. When the roads were cleared, they found the son about a mile away, frozen to death in a snowdrift. He was clutching a bunch of dead flowers. I guess he was trying to get home."

"He was bringing his mother a present," said Marcy.

"Probably, but we don't know for sure," her mother replied gently.

"I do," said Marcy, and sadly she picked up the dead flowers and carried them back to the snow woman.

—Margaret Ronan

Illustration/Hal Frenck

Good Vibrations

Dr. Paulina Kernberg is a child psychiatrist who works with kids every day. She listens to their problems, talks with them, and tries to make life seem a little less confusing. If you have any questions you'd like to ask her, or a problem that is bothering you, write to: Dr. Kernberg, *Dynamite*, 50 West 44th St., New York, NY 10036. You don't have to write your name if you don't want to. Each month she'll try to answer some of your letters in "Good Vibrations." Sorry, no answers by mail.

"Our Neighbor Bugs Us!"

Dear Dr. Kernberg,

I have a neighbor who nags me about everything I do. When I play basketball, his wife complains that the bouncing ball makes her nervous. When my brother and I play baseball or soccer in our yard, he keeps the balls when they go over the fence. My mother tells us to respect and listen to him. I find it hard to think that he was ever a boy, too!

Eleven-year-old

Dear Eleven-year-old,

From your letter it sounds as if your neighbor doesn't have any children of his own living at home, so he has become very set in his ways. This sometimes happens to people as they get older. Try explaining the entire situation to your parents. Perhaps they can get together with your neighbor and discuss the problem. Together, they may be able to find a solution. In the meantime, have patience with your next-door neighbor. It will only make things more difficult if you start to be disrespectful toward an older person.

"My Friend's Parents Are Getting a Divorce . . ."

Dear Dr. Kernberg,

I have a friend whose parents are getting a divorce. In school she cries and talks to herself. When I talked to her, she told me that her parents hated her and so do her friends. I am sure this is not true. Other people tell me to leave her alone, but I can't! Help!

Confused

Dear Confused,

You certainly are not confused at all! Very often kids feel they are the ones to blame for the divorce of their parents. They blame themselves for not being good enough, or nice enough, or smart enough. It is important that you tell this friend you are there to talk to her. Tell her that many kids whose parents are getting divorced feel the same way. If you listen to her and let her feel that you care the same for her whether her parents are divorced or not, you will really be a big help to her.

Dynamite's Guest Stars– The Look-Alike Winners Are Here!

Hello from *Dynamite*'s gallery of great star look-alikes! In *Dynamite* #85 we ran a contest inviting all of you to send us a photo of yourself as proof that you look like the star you think you look like! We weren't a bit surprised to find stacks of stars piling up in our mailbox, but we were surprised at how difficult it was to pick only ten winners. Finally we decided on the ten who would receive a copy of *The Dynamite Kids' Guide to the Movies!* But, we just had to add ten runners-up to our guest star spot in this *Dynamite*! Let's give them all a big round of applause . . . Ladies and gentlemen, the winners are here!

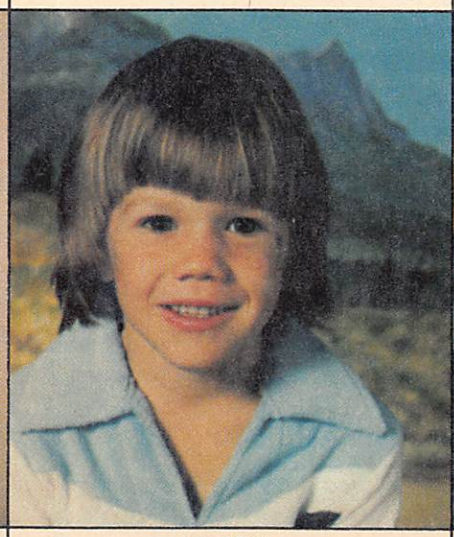
THE WINNERS!

Brooke Shields
Annika Noren, Aberdeen, NJ

Quinn Cummings
Heather Kerner, Woodmere, NY

Kristy McNichol
LuAnn Evoniuk, Belfield, ND

Danielle Brisebois
Nicole Newell, Framingham, MA



Adam Rich
Brian Ludwig, Boulder, CO

Brooke Shields
Lisa Painter, Bay City, MI

John Schneider
Robert Crider, Martinsburg, WV

Suzanne Sommers
Theresa Link, Mexico, NY

Gilligan
Matt Davis, Huntington Beach, CA

Melissa Gilbert
Amy Smith, Wooster, OH

The Runners-Up!

Bonnie Franklin
Tina Carroll, Powersite, MO

Messy Marvin
Paul Murphy, Worcester, MA

Jerry Lewis
David Waghalter, Houston, TX

Adam Rich
Jamie Beyer, North Caldwell, NJ

Alfalfa
David Feldman, Huntington, NY

Dorothy Hamill
Alexandra Dumas, Hillsborough, CA

Barbra Streisand
Lisa Aycock, Spruce Pine, AL

The Unknown Comic
Sharon Macchia, Central Islip, NY

Brooke Shields
Denise Dion, Biddefore, ME

Judy Garland
Polly Van Cleave, Leander, TX

OFF THE

***Dynamite's* catching them all! We're rolling right along with the rock scene, staying on top of the charts, and watching to see who's hot and who's not. Here's a roundup of rock facts, figures, faces, and other high notes and low notes from the rockpile!**

The Wide (and Weird) World of Rock

A government agency, the United States International Communications Agency, recently sponsored an exhibit called "America Now: A Look at the Arts of the '70s." The exhibit, which included displays of paintings, movies, television, and music, gave people in Hungary, Romania, and Yugoslavia their first look at the arts in the United States. Guess what was the most popular part of the show? It was a life-size mannequin, dressed up and made up to look like **Kiss** bassist **Gene Simmons!**

Chart Chatter

Solo records by some of the biggest names in the biggest rock groups are busting out all over. All of the following either have made or have plans to make their own solo records: **Stevie Nicks, Lindsey Buckingham,** and **Mick Fleetwood** of **Fleetwood Mac, Debbie Harry** of **Blondie, Carl Wilson** of **The Beach Boys, John Entwistle** of **The Who, Dave Davies** of **The Kinks, Roger Taylor** of **Queen, Phil Collins** of **Genesis,** and various members of **The Eagles, Jefferson Starship,** and **Pink Floyd.**

Styx

Group of the Month

Attendance at rock concerts is down this year, but you'd never know it judging from the **Styx** tour. The recent tour to promote their album *Paradise Theatre* was one of the largest productions in rock history! Styx played in more than 100 cities, and most shows were sellouts. Their album *Paradise Theatre* sold more than three million copies. It's their fourth album in a row to sell that many copies. As the title of one of their songs says, for Styx it's been "The Best of Times."

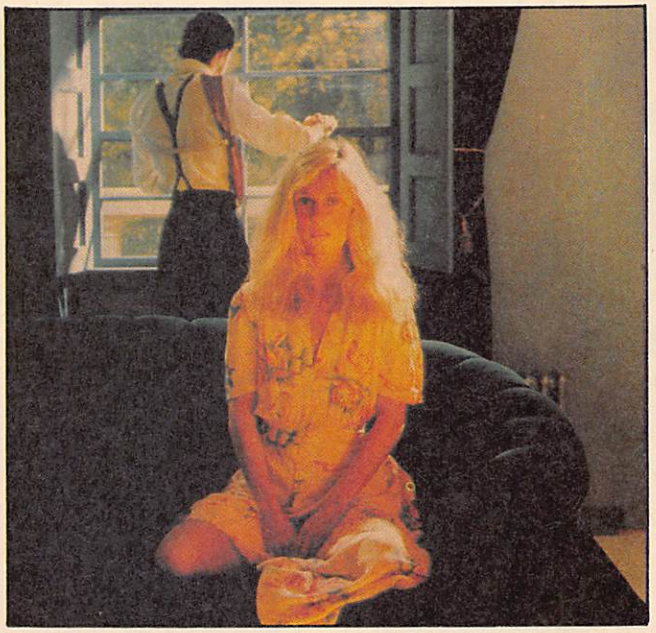
RECORD

Old Bug Eyes is Back!

After **Kim Carnes'** chart-topping hit "Bette Davis Eyes," it was only natural for other singers to do more name dropping in their songs. The nuttiest example is "Marty Feldman Eyes," by **Bruce "Baby Man" Baum** and **Little Roger and the Goosebumps** [best known for their **Led Zeppelin**-inspired spoof, "Stairway to Gilligan's Island"]. What's next? *Record World* magazine suggests a few possible titles: "Christopher Cross Eyes," and "Carly Simon Eyes!" (Get it? Simonize!)

Marty Feldman

United Press International



Kim Carnes

Notes About the Number Ones

Kim Carnes's "Bette Davis Eyes," was first recorded six years ago. The original version, sung by **Jackie DeShannon,** one of the co-writers of the song, was a flop!

Contest Corner

You can win one of five copies of Styx's *Paradise Theatre* album! To enter the contest, make a list of as many three-, four-, and five-letter words as you can from the letters that spell the words *Paradise Theatre*. In each word you make, use each letter only once or as many times as it appears in the title. The five longest lists will each win an album. In case of a tie, we'll pick the winner at random. Send lists to: Off the Record/Styx, % *Dynamite*, 50 W. 44th Street, N.Y., NY 10036. Get your entries in by Feb. 15, 1982. Contest void where prohibited.

COUNT MORBIDA'S MONTHLY PUZZLE PAGES

WELL, WELL. LOOK WHO'S BACK! YOU CREEPY KIDS JUST DON'T GIVE UP, DO YOU? TOUGH BREAK, TOTS, YOU CAUGHT ME ON MY WAY OUT THE DOOR. I'M FLYING SOUTH FOR THE WINTER AND I DON'T NEED YOU TAGGING ALONG WITH ME. YOUR ONLY CHANCE OF GETTING OUT OF THE COLD IS TO CHANGE COLD TO WARM IN ONLY FOUR MOVES. CHANGE ONE LETTER WITH EACH MOVE. USE THE CLUES, YOU'LL NEED THEM! HA HA HA HA HA HA!

C O L D

_ _ _ _ 1. rope or heavy string.

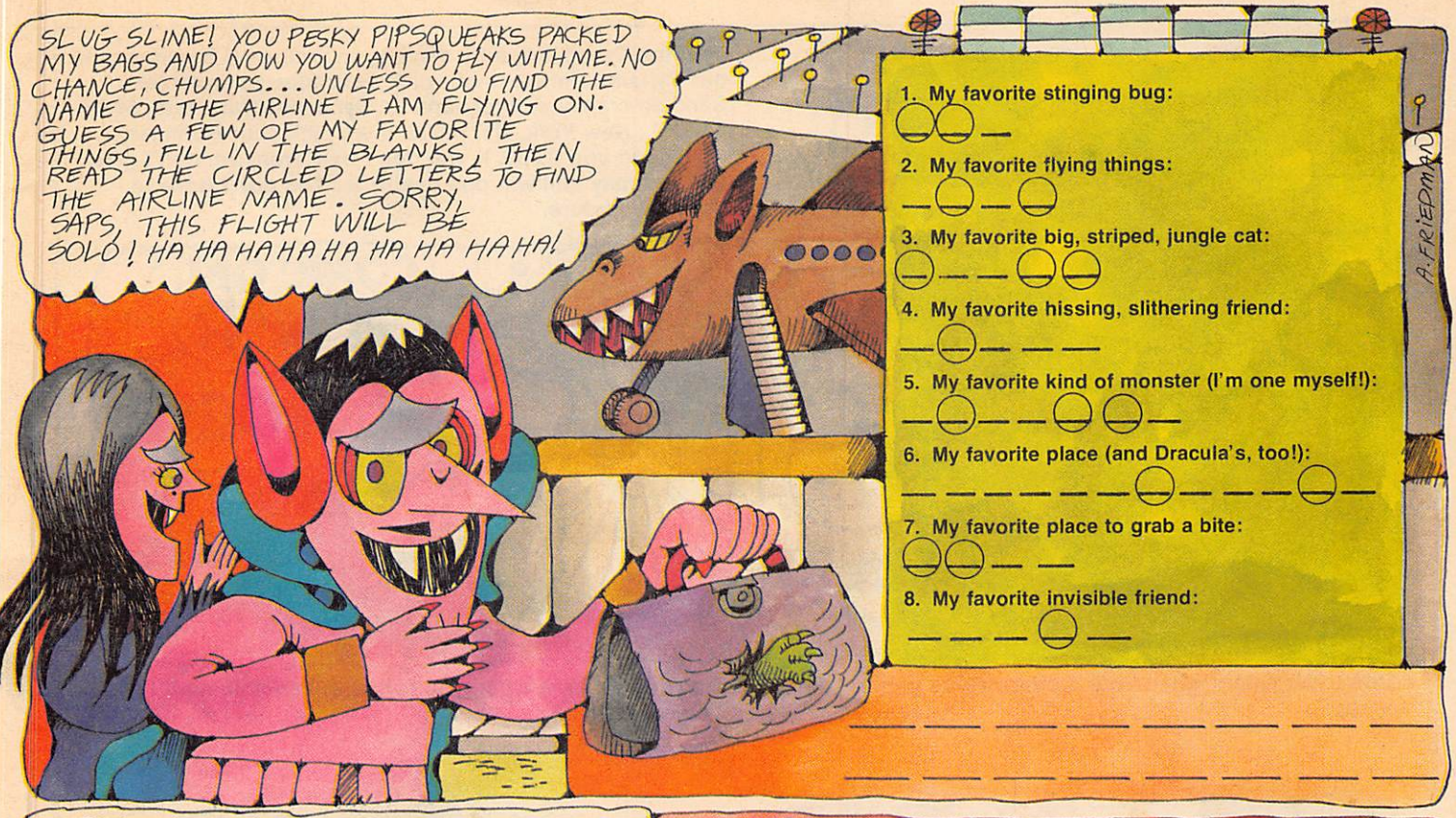
_ _ _ _ 2. one of what is in a dictionary.

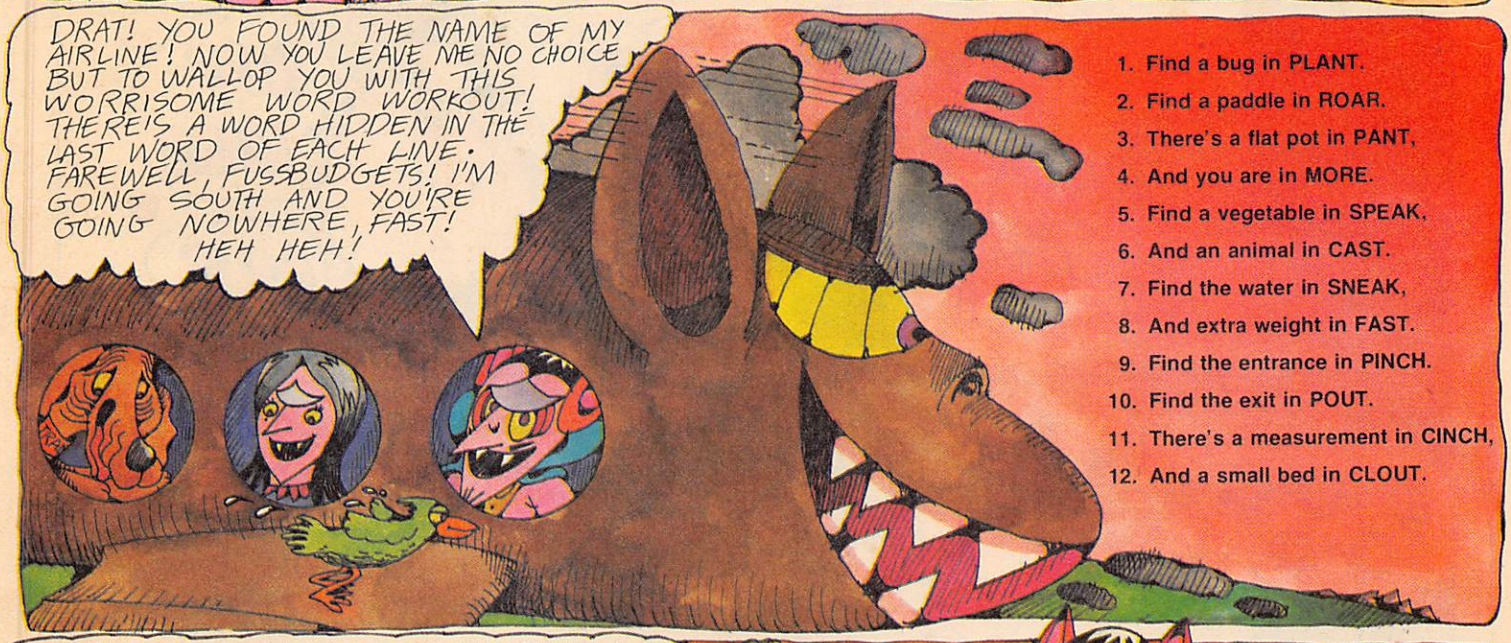
_ _ _ _ 3. what the early bird catches (yecch!).

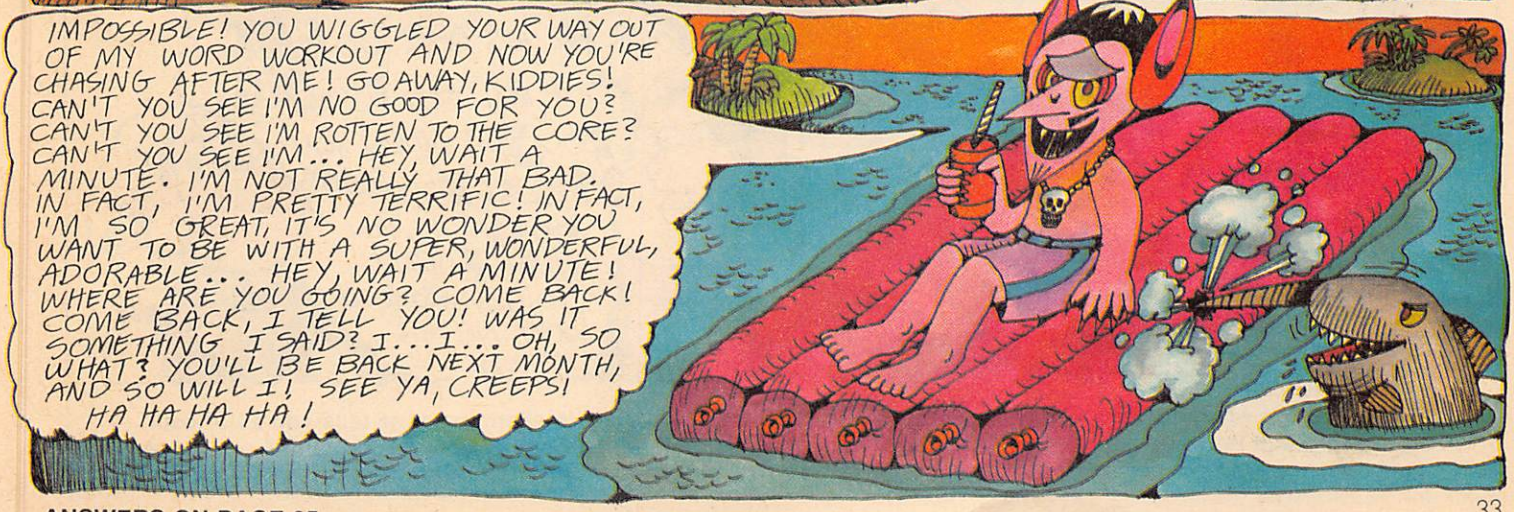
W A R M

DRAGON DROOL! YOU DRIBBLING DRIPS ARE HOT ON MY TRAIL! NOW YOU FORCE ME TO PUT YOU TO WORK! HOW ABOUT PACKING MY SUITCASE FOR ME, PUNKS? FIRST FIND MY CLOTHES. THERE ARE ELEVEN ITEMS OF CLOTHING HIDDEN UP, DOWN, DIAGONALLY, BACKWARD, AND FORWARD. CIRCLE THEM AS YOU FIND THEM. EITHER SEND ME PACKING OR I'LL SEND YOU PACKING FOR GOOD! YUK YUK!

W	T	E	K	C	A	J
S	I	G	T	H	A	T
T	S	L	R	A	X	S
N	H	O	I	E	O	K
A	O	V	H	P	V	C
P	E	E	S	A	J	O
L	S	S	D	C	L	S







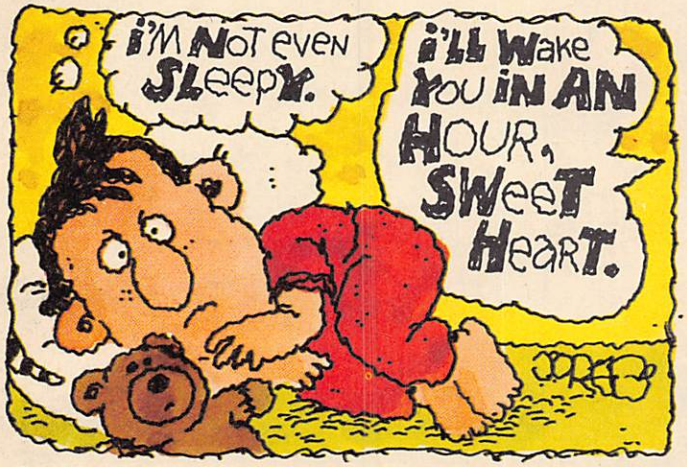
Puzzles and Text: Linda Aber; Illustration: Arthur Friedman.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 35

BUMMERS!

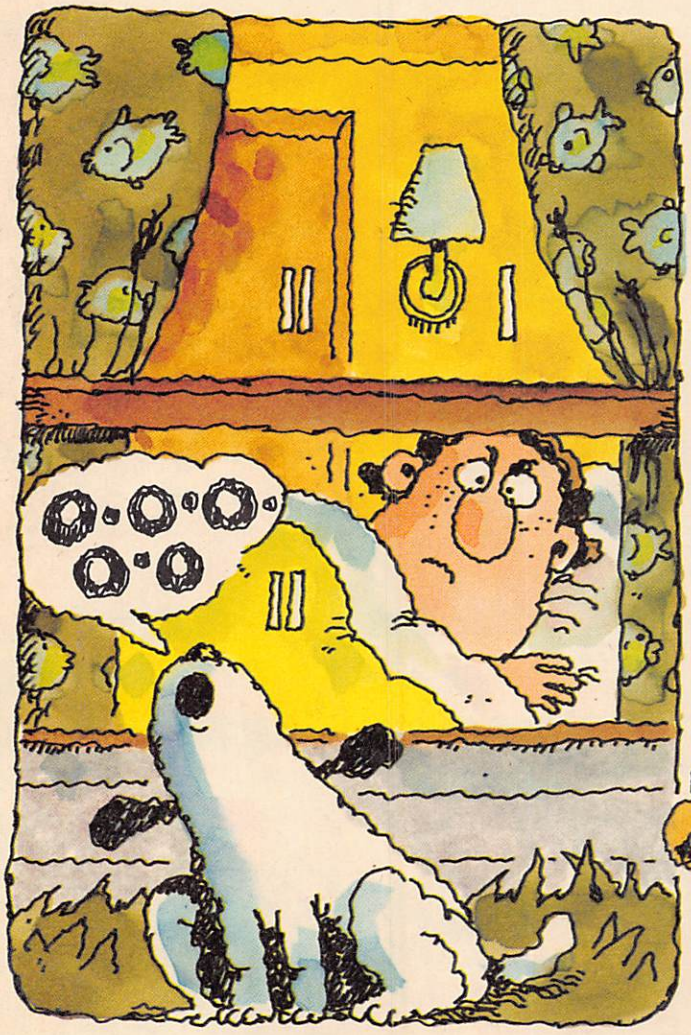
Join the Group Gripe by sending in your own Bummer, and our *Dynamite* artist might pick your idea to illustrate. Send all cranky suggestions to: *Dynamite*/Bummers, 50 W. 44th St., New York, NY 10036. If we pick your Bummer, we'll send you $5.00. If you don't hear from us, don't give up. You may still win one day! P.S.: You don't have to draw the picture.

Illustration/Jared Lee



Don't you hate it when your mother wants you to take a nap! Deirdre Brace, Olivet, MI

Don't you hate it when you forget the combination to your bike lock! Jena Hanes, Bloomington, IN



Don't you hate it when your dog sits under your window all night and howls! Toni DeBeneditto, Lake Village, IN

Don't you hate it when you're at a New Year's Eve party and none of the girls wants to kiss you at midnight!

Don't you hate it when someone tells you all of your bad points and none of your good points! Mari Katada, Leonia, NJ

Arrow Picks the Winners!

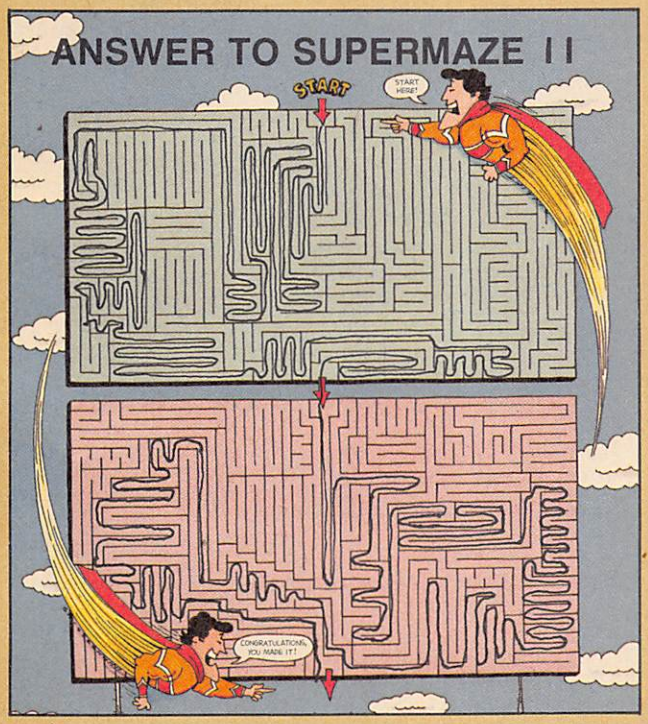
Wait till you see the winning selections on the January Arrow book list! There's a Nancy Drew Mystery, a "Choose Your Own Adventure," a purr-fectly wonderful story about two cats, and a brand-new special for sports fans called *WINNER!*

The Secret in the Old Lace — When Nancy Drew enters a magazine contest with a solution to a true mystery, strange things start to happen. Suddenly Nancy finds herself involved in a *real* mystery that takes her through dark tunnels and ghostly canals! Whatever happened to the rich Belgian gentleman, the secret pair of lace cuffs, and a priceless treasure that disappeared a century ago? Nancy and her friends get caught up in a chilling adventure — and you'll get caught up in it, too!

Who Killed Harlowe Thrombey? — You're the detective, and it's your first murder case in Arrow's newest "Choose Your Own Adventure" book. Someone has murdered Harlowe Thrombey and only you can find out who did it! If you decide to search for clues in the pantry, you'll turn to page 31. If you question the mysterious Dr. Lipscomb, you must turn to page 28. The outcome of the story depends on the choices *you* make! You won't want to miss this great reading fun!

Princess and Minerva — Princess, that beautiful white cat, is back! And so is her old friend, "Patches" Minerva. In this exciting new adventure, proud, independent Minerva is badly hurt and helpless! Suddenly she finds herself in a car — being carried farther and farther away from home *and* from Princess! Will Minerva ever be her tough old self again? An exciting story you won't want to miss. And you won't want to miss ***WINNER!*** — filled with sports tips, interviews, and much more!

Remember, you can't order these books through *Dynamite*. But you can get them and many other great books form your teacher through the Arrow Book club next month!



ANSWERS TO COUNT MORBIDA'S PUZZLE PAGES

Cold Puzzle

COLD/CORD/WORD/WORM/WARM

Clothes Call

jacket cape
hat socks
cap coat
shoes tie
gloves pants
shirt

Morbida's Airline

Beastern Airlines

W	T	E	K	C	A	J
S	I	G	T	H	A	T
T	S	L	R	A	X	S
N	H	O	I	E	O	K
A	O	V	H	P	V	C
P	E	E	S	A	J	O
L	S	S	D	C	L	S

1. Bee; 2. Bats; 3. Tiger; 4. Snake; 5. Vampire; 6. Transylvania; 7. Neck; 8. Ghost.

Worrisome Word Workout

1. ant; 2. oar; 3. pan; 4. me; 5. pea; 6. cat; 7. sea; 8. fat; 9. in; 10. out; 11. inch; 12. cot.

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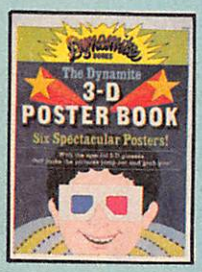

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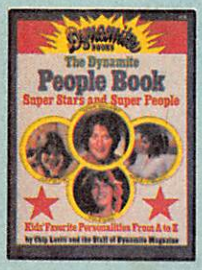

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